

Internet-based approach to collecting behavioral risk data are comparable to more conventional methods such as mail, telephone and in-person surveys, and may be superior in sampling MSM that are hard to reach at traditional MSM venues. Methodologies have also been developed to address confidentiality and duplication of data.

C. Eligible Applicants

Applications may be submitted by sites that are currently funded by CDC to conduct behavioral surveillance under Program Announcement 00005, entitled, "HIV/AIDS Surveillance Cooperative Agreements," and other specified sites that are eligible to apply for funding in 2003.

These other sites are the state or local health departments whose jurisdictions include the top 15 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA's) by number of people living with AIDS at the end of 1999 as reported in "HIV/AIDS Surveillance Supplemental Report," (2000; 7(No.1: 10-11).

These sites are the directly funded city health departments of:

New York City, NY; Los Angeles, CA; San Francisco, CA; Chicago, IL; Houston, TX; Philadelphia, PA.

These sites are the state health departments containing the following MSA's:

Washington, DC; Miami, FL and Ft Lauderdale, FL; Atlanta, GA; Boston, MA; Baltimore, MD; San Juan, PR; Newark, NJ; Dallas, TX.

An additional five areas are also eligible to apply in 2003: these are State health departments containing the following MSAs:

Detroit, MI; New Haven, CT; New Orleans, LA; San Diego, CA; Seattle, WA.

One of the purposes of this program is to compare the web-based behavioral surveillance project with the new national behavioral surveillance initiative. This requires that project activities be conducted in the same project areas previously funded for comparability of data.

Note: Title 2 of the United States Code section 1611 states that an organization described in section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engages in lobbying activities is not eligible to receive Federal funds constituting an award, grant or loan.

D. Funding

Availability of Funds

Approximately \$500,000 is available in FY 2003, to fund approximately four awards. It is expected that the average award will be \$125,000, ranging from \$125,000 to \$250,000. It is expected that

the awards will begin on or about August 1, 2003, and will be made for a 12-month budget period within a project period of up to three years. Funding estimates may change.

Continuation awards within an approved project period will be made on the basis of satisfactory progress as evidenced by required reports and the availability of funds.

Use of Funds

Funds are awarded for a specifically defined purpose and may not be used for any other purpose or program. Funds may be used to support personnel and to purchase equipment, supplies, and services directly related to project activities. Funds may not be used to supplant state or local health department funds available for HIV Prevention and Surveillance. Funds may not be used to provide direct medical care or prevention case management.

Funding Preference

Funding preferences may be given to achieve geographic distribution.

Recipient Financial Participation

Matching funds are not required for this program.

E. Program Requirements

In conducting activities to achieve the purpose of this program, the recipient will be responsible for the activities listed under 1. Recipient Activities, and CDC will be responsible for the activities listed under 2. CDC Activities.

1. Recipient Activities

a. Collaborate with CDC and other funded sites to develop a protocol for an Internet-based behavioral surveillance project.

b. Participate in required planning meetings with other funded sites and CDC.

c. Conduct formative research to determine sites (chat rooms, Web sites, etc.) in which recruitment of study participants will occur.

d. Collaborate with CDC and other funded sites to develop and test an Internet-based behavioral risk factor survey.

e. Collaborate with CDC and other funded sites to identify or develop a local project Web site where the survey instrument will reside.

f. In accordance with a study protocol, administer the survey to a minimum of 500 MSM sampled through time-space or probability sampling methods, including significant representation of persons of color.

g. Collaborate with CDC and other funded sites to develop and implement a local public information campaign.

h. Maintain a secure environment to protect the security and confidentiality of data obtained in this activity.

i. Report project data to CDC in a timely manner according to established protocols for data collection, quality assurance, storage and transfer.

j. Disseminate findings for use in state/local prevention and treatment services planning and evaluation.

2. CDC Activities

a. Develop and test an Internet-based survey instrument.

b. Create and maintain a project database and data management system, including systems to address data security and duplication of participants.

c. Provide technical assistance and expertise for Web site selection and development.

d. Provide technical support on all web-based technologies, software and data base issues.

e. Facilitate the development of site-specific operational plans.

f. Provide technical assistance to support implementation of agreed upon methods to accomplish project objectives.

g. Participate in the analysis and dissemination of data. Conduct and/or coordinate analyses of the multi-site data and distribute information to support national HIV prevention and surveillance efforts.

F. Content

Applications

The Program Announcement title and number must appear in the application. Use the information in the Program Requirements, Other Requirements, and Evaluation Criteria sections to develop the application content. Your application will be evaluated on the criteria listed, so it is important to follow them in laying out your program plan. The narrative should be no more than 20 pages, double-spaced, printed on one side, with one-inch margins, and unreduced 12-point font. Include evidence of your ability to target racial/ethnic minority populations and enroll samples of racial/ethnic minority MSM through the Internet.

The narrative should consist of, at a minimum, a Plan, Objectives, Methods, Evaluation and Budget. The program plan should address activities to be conducted over the entire three-year project period. The budget must cover the first one-year budget period.

In addition, CDC is particularly interested in promoting improved